

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 17 to 19, 22 to 25, 27, 29 and 30 to 32 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 20, 26 and 28 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The A potential sensor comprising:

first and second detection electrodes opposed to a potential-measured object
a potential of which is to be measured; and

a movable shutter positioned between the detection electrodes and the
potential-measured object with gaps thereto,

wherein said movable shutter is configured to assume a first state and a
second state, the first detection electrode being entirely exposed and the second detection
electrode being entirely masked when the movable shutter assumes the first state, and the
first detection electrode being entirely masked and the second detection electrode being
entirely exposed when the movable shutter assumes the second state according to claim 17,

and wherein said movable shutter is configured to be controlled by
magnetic-field generation means, which generates a magnetic field substantially
perpendicular to a movable direction of said movable shutter, and current application
means, which supplies said movable shutter with a current substantially perpendicular to
the movable direction of said movable shutter and to a direction of the magnetic field,
thereby causing said movable shutter to assume said first state and said second state.

21. (Previously Presented) The potential sensor according to claim 20, wherein the magnetic field generation means is a permanent magnet or an electromagnetic coil.

22. to 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The A potential sensor comprising:
plural detection electrodes disposed adjacent each other; and
plural movable shutters each of which is individually actuated to mask or
expose the plural detection electrodes selectively, at least one of the plural movable
shutters being activated so as to expose a first detection electrode of the plural detection
electrodes and mask a second detection electrode of the plural detection electrodes, which
is adjacent to the first detection electrode, at a first state, and so as to expose the second
detection electrode and mask the first detection electrode at a second state according to
claim 25,

wherein said plural movable shutters include three or more movable shutters arranged in a juxtaposition such that a movable shutter not located on an edge of the juxtaposition masks at least one of the plural detection electrodes in the first state or the second state.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The A potential sensor comprising:
plural sensor units each of which is comprised of first and second detection
electrodes opposed to a potential-measured object a potential of which is to be measured
and adjacent each other; and
a movable shutter positioned between the detection electrodes and the
potential-measured object with gaps thereto, the movable shutter being selectively
positioned in a first state or a second state,
wherein the movable shutter masks the second detection electrode and
exposes the first detection electrode to the potential-measured object in the first state, and
masks the first detection electrode and exposes the second detection electrode to the
potential-measured object in the second state according to claim 27,
and wherein in the plurality of sensor units at least two detection electrodes
exposed and at least two detection electrodes masked to the potential-measured object
respectively in the first state of the movable shutters are electrically connected to each
other, respectively.

29. to 32. (Cancelled)